

# AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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## AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

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### U.S. AIDS AUSTRIAN ATOMS-FOR-PEACE PROGRAM

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission announced recently that it has put aside \$350,000 toward the construction of an Austrian atomic center near Vienna. The grant was made as part of the American atoms-for-peace program. As reported previously, the Austrian government has already awarded a contract to an American firm for the construction of the installation, estimated to cost about \$4 million. An atomic reactor with a five megawatt capacity will be the main feature of the planned center. It is to serve research into all phases of peaceful uses of atomic energy. The U.S. government will supply the Austrian installation with a limited amount of fissionable material, and a number of Austrian technicians will be trained at the International Institute for Nuclear Science and Engineering at Argonne National Laboratory.

### GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO VISIT RUSSIA JULY 21 - 27

On the occasion of his stay in Vienna in April 1957, the First Deputy Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, Anastas Mikoyan, transmitted to the Austrian Government an invitation for a visit to Moscow, which was then scheduled for July 13, 1958. At the end of June, the Soviet Ambassador in Vienna requested a postponement; the date of the Austrian state visit was therefore fixed for the period from July 21 to 27.

The invitation of the Government of the USSR has been extended to Chancellor Julius Raab, Vice Chancellor Bruno Pittermann, Foreign Minister Leopold Figl, and State Secretary at the Foreign Office Bruno Kreisky. The four government members will leave Vienna on July 21.

The program of the Austrian State visit envisages negotiations on a series of economic questions; an important point will be the problem of the Austrian compensation deliveries to the Soviet Union. Austria seeks a reduction especially with regard to oil shipments.

### RAAB: SOVIET LOAN NEITHER SOUGHT NOR OFFERED

The rumor that the Austrian Government delegation would seek a loan from Soviet Russia was denied by Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab. The Chancellor said in a radio address:

"All these rumors are sheer speculation. We neither have the intention to ask for a loan nor has a loan been offered to us."

### AUSTRIAN LEADERS EXPOUND EUROPEAN POLICY AT VIENNA TALKS

Statesmen from seven European nations recently attended a symposium on "The Unity of Europe" in Vienna's city center. The participants were greeted by President Schaeff; Mayor Jonas was chairman of the meeting.

Vice Chancellor Bruno Pittermann advocated the idea of a Greater Europe. The first stage of European integrations had been marked by a reconciliation between the Germans and the French, he said. The second stage, he added, was "Europe's defense against Stalinist aggression." Now it was time to enter upon the third stage: the elimination of the small-state ideology and the Minor-Europe concept. "Unity must aim at the whole of Europe," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Foreign Minister Leopold Figl took the theme of "Austria's Stake in Europe." He said:

"Austria's decision in favor of the European Free Trade Area is primarily due to the understanding that the planned organization, without affecting Austrian sovereignty in the fields of trade and economic policy, will comprise a large area of economic exchange, including England. From a political point of view, the Free Trade Area is to serve the important purpose of preventing any further split within Europe. Many sacrifices will be necessary to preserve the idea of unity, but they will be well worthwhile for a free and peaceful life in the greater European f therland."

Bruno Kreisky, State Secretary at the Austrian Foreign Office, spoke on "Neutrality and Integration."

Theoretical discussions on the character of neutrality are of great importance, Dr. Kreisky said. However, it would be wrong to overestimate their value; in the past "one country's neutral status has not always prevented another from violating its territory."

Furthermore, "the problem for Austria is not only a correct assessment of its own powers but also a realistic appraisal of the commitments which result from its geographical position and from International power relationships such as existed in 1955, when the Austrian State Treaty was concluded, and which affect Austria today, and will continue to exist for some time to come," the Secretary said.

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*The next issue of*  
**AUSTRIAN INFORMATION**  
*will appear on August 23.*

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## AUSTRIAN AND INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES CONSULT ON MIGRATION PROBLEMS

The following review of international, governmental and private refugee aid in Austria was part of a study meeting on the refugee problem held recently in Salzburg.

The representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Rorholt, stressed the necessity of mutual help and cooperation in order to speed up and coordinate the existing plans for refugee aid. Experience of many years had shown, he said, that the greatest success of any measures taken in aiding refugees lay in emigration, he said. Emigration, he added, was also the most effective way of easing the burden of countries of asylum. He said that in spite of the extraordinary efforts made by all organizations concerned, about 8,000 Hungarian refugees who desired to emigrate to overseas or other European nations still remained in Austria. Rorholt said that every effort should be made to find a haven for these people before the end of the current year.

The chief of the U.S. refugee program in Austria, Kelly, underlined American efforts toward a solution of the refugee problem and assured the conferees that the U.S. would continue to help the refugees find new homes in the free nations of the world and that it would financially aid the governments and welfare organizations of host nations until the refugees can be resettled. Since its inception, Kelly said, the U.S. refugee aid organization in Austria has spent 314 million schillings (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) for helping 140,000 refugees.

Austria's point of view was given by an Interior Ministry spokesman. From 1945 to 1957, he said, Austrian authorities had to care for about 1,400,000 refugees and homeless persons. To this figure must be added 180,000 Hungarian refugees which entered Austria since October, 1956. Also not included in the 1,400,000 figure were lately-arrived Yugoslav refugees whose number he estimated at 20,000.

The Austrian government and the individual federal Laender, he said, spent 1.5 billion schillings in cash for the refugees — not including late Hungarian arrivals — during the last 12 years. Figured at today's purchasing power, the total amounted to at least three billion schillings, the spokesman said. He added that this was a fair contribution from a small and hardly wealthy nation such as Austria.

While the number of refugees in Austria had decreased considerably in comparison to previous years, the spokesman said that Austria was still harboring 6,900 newly arrived Hungarian refugees in camps, 2,240 in aid organization homes and 8,060 in private homes; there are also 3,750 Yugoslav refugees in camps and 1,300 elsewhere. The number of other refugees in camps for foreign language persons was 2,800 and in German-speaking camps about 3,000. These figures, the spokesman said, included only those refugees who were under the jurisdiction of the UN high commissioner. Thousands of others who are no longer under UN jurisdiction because they have become Austrian citizens, still live in camps, he said. No longer in camps were about 14,000 of the older refugees and 23,000 German-speaking displaced persons.

As far as emigration was concerned, said the spokesman, it was a sad fact that the willingness of most states to accept some refugees had declined more and more. Progress in emigration was often impeded, he said, by the conditions made by the prospective countries of immigration with regard to the age, vocation and health of the immigrant. This system of choice according to the refugee's qualification has brought it about that Austria retains in ever increasing measure such refugees for integration who might be considered least qualified to make their way.

The Austrian representative requested that foreign countries use a less stringent set of rules for granting immigration to refugees. Another request concerned the newly arrived Yugoslav refugees who could not be given permanent asylum for lack of really valid political reasons. The spokesman said that Austria would not return them to their homeland but he urged that international refugee organizations and other agencies speed up their efforts to supply the necessary documents for emigration of these people, a large group of whom claims to have genuine chances to settle elsewhere.

### U.S. TO GRANT 3000 ADDITIONAL VISAS

The Department of State announced that an additional 3000 immigration visas had been granted to Hungarian Refugees in Austria. The announcement voiced hope that other governments would follow the American example in order to further alleviate this pressing problem.

These visas were granted in direct answer to a joint appeal from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM).

### UNEMPLOYMENT

In the middle of June, Austrian labor offices reported 81,638 registered unemployed. Compared with the figures of late May, the total decreased by 6,486 or 7.4%. Men and women accounted about equally for the reduction. However, as compared with the middle of June of 1957, the number of registered job seekers was 5.6 higher. However, the increase of 4,036 persons this year is merely due to the fact that more women had registered this year than last.

### EUROPEAN ATOMIC COOPERATION

Representatives of Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and the six Euratom nations recently signed an agreement in Oslo concerning the research program and the operation of the reactor of the Norwegian Atomic Institute. The agreement will remain in force for three years. The Norwegian reactor is the only one in the world operated with heavy water. The U.S. government has offered technical assistance for the project.

### EMIGRATION

A considerable reduction in the emigration of Austrian citizens to foreign countries was noted for last year. During 1957, only 294 Austrians left for overseas in comparison with 665 in 1956. The most important reason for this development may be found in the continuing economic boom in Austria. Other causes were the preferential treatment given Hungarian refugees by international migration agencies and the long waiting periods for some visas.

**HARD CURRENCY**

Austria's currency situation is thoroughly satisfactory, according to the latest report of the Austrian National Bank. *Gold, national and foreign currency deposits* rose by 2.4 billion schillings to 13.3 billion during the year ended May 31, 1958. (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) During the same time, bank note circulation rose only by about one billion schillings and total circulation (notes and immediately payable obligations) by 1.8 billion to a total of 18.4 billion schillings.

*Savings deposits* increased during the year ended April 30, 1958, by 4.9 billion schillings to 18.8 billion. Checking account deposits rose by 1.4 billion to 17.1 billion. These deposits show a total increase of 6.3 billion schillings compared with a rise in commercial credits of 3.8 billion to 30.4 billion.

These figures show that national and foreign currency deposits are rising again following a short decline during the tourist off-season, and that circulation is not increasing as strongly as deposits of foreign currency. The figures also show that commercial credits are still increasingly available, but that such increase appears warranted by the large rise in savings and checking account deposits.

Austria's debt to foreign nations is relatively very small. As of December 31, 1957, Austria owed foreign creditors 1,583 billion schillings, or about 4.7% of the national budget. Of this amount, 994 million schillings are debts the state had incurred prior to 1938, and 589 million after 1945.

Accordingly, the postwar debt compared roughly to one week's Austrian exports and is considerably smaller than that of most other nations.

**STABLE PRICE LEVELS**

According to statistical reports, price levels remained generally stable during May, 1958. The wholesale index was 855 (as against 854 in April) and the retail index 546 (as against 545). Within the last 12 months, the retail price level increased by .67% and the wholesale level decreased by 3%.

**FOREIGN TRADE DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1958**

The value of imports during the first three months of 1958, as compared with the corresponding period of 1957, decreased from 7.4 billion schillings to 7 billion schillings (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.). The value of exports went down from 6 to 5.7 billion schillings. The reduction in import value is due exclusively to price changes while the 5% decrease in exports is a reduction in volume. The minus balance of 1.3 billion schillings has changed but little in comparison with the corresponding figures for the first three months of 1957 when it stood at 1.4 billion.

The trend of Austria's trade has undergone but very few changes. The Federal Republic of Germany further strengthened its predominant position; its participation in imports came to 35.5% and in exports to 24.6%. The import quota of the U.S. decreased somewhat and stood at 12% and Italy was third among the importers with 8.2%. However, in receiving exports, Italy was second with 16.8%; Poland was third with 5.1%.

The member states of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) shared in 68% of Austrian imports and 64% of Austrian exports.

The Eastern European nations answered for 9% of Austrian imports (somewhat less than previously) and for 14% of the exports (an increase over last year). In this sector, Austria showed a healthy plus balance — Imports of 650 million schillings as against exports of 811 million schillings.

**VENEZUELA — AUSTRIA'S THIRD BEST CUSTOMER IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

Austria was able to increase its exports to Venezuela from \$600,000 in 1952 to \$5,300,000 in 1957. (U.S. dollars.) Thus Venezuela, with a population of only six million, is topped only by the United States and Argentina among Austria's trade partners in the Western Hemisphere.

**VIENNA A TOURIST CENTER**

During May, 62,492 persons visited Vienna, among them 43,246 foreigners. Overnight reservations increased from 160,000 in May, 1957, to 182,000 this year. From Germany came 12,500 persons, from the U.S. 8,000, from Italy 3,000, from England 2,600, from Switzerland 2,400 and from France 1,500. 5,420 young people stayed at youth hostels; among them were 1,887 foreigners.

**TOURIST TRAFFIC STILL VERY MUCH AN INTER-EUROPEAN AFFAIR**

The year 1957 with its 33 million overnight guests brought a new record in the development of Austrian tourist traffic, a spokesman for the Austrian State Tourist Office announced.

He underlined that many European tourist resorts were increasing their publicity efforts and that Austria, too, should leave no stone unturned to retain its place as a tourist center in competition with other European nations. Though it was necessary to bring about an increase in tourist traffic from overseas, the fact should not be overlooked, he said, that practically 80% of the entire European tourist traffic was of inter-European origin. With this in mind, the spokesman said, the new record of 1957 was not entirely satisfactory: tourist traffic from the U.S. decreased and traffic from several European countries also showed a declining trend.

The figures for European tourists registered in Austria amounted to 91% of the total, and that of overnight guests to 94%.

**TIME PAYMENTS FOR CONSUMER GOODS INCREASE**

A report by the Austrian Institute for Economic Research showed that instalment buying has greatly increased in Austria since 1953. Bank credits for instalment purchases rose from 620 million schillings to 1953 to 1,490 million schillings in 1957. Amounts still due under these credits rose from 440 million schillings to more than one billion. (26 schillings equal one dollar; Austria has a population of seven million. Ed.) The above figures, while not including every single instalment loan purchase, reflect the trend quite accurately.

This trend is due to the increasing demand for consumer goods such as automobiles and refrigerators, for which few

people can afford to pay cash. During the years covered by the report, new credits for machines, textiles and clothing gained by only one half.

But instalment loans for motor vehicles have doubled, for furniture tripled and for electrical appliances they have gone up 800%.

Yet, the relative importance of instalment firms has gained but little. Of the sales effected by retail merchants who do instalment business (not including foodstuffs, coal and tobacco), only 1.4% was financed in 1954 by instalment loan banks. The figure was 2.3% last year. The jump was sudden and took place almost wholly during 1957.

The average credit given by instalment loan banks amounts to 12,000 schillings and is repayable in three fourths of the cases within 12 to 18 months.

#### OVERTIME LABOR COSTS

A report by the International Labor Office shows that total labor costs in Austria are greatly affected especially by extra pay for overtime, night work and holiday work. In percentages, the extra payments in the cotton industry alone amount to .3% in Italy, 1.3% in France and 1.5% in West Germany; but Austria is far ahead with 2.6%.

The Austrian shoe industry likewise is first with .9% (Italy .3%, Germany .6%, France .8%).

The percentages in the coal mining industry are as follows: Italy .7%, Germany 1.4%, Austria 4%. In Austria, too, overtime is figured in added percentages to hourly pay. The usual rate is 25%, at least for the first two hours of overtime. Beginning with the third hour, the rate in many West European countries is 50%.

However, in Austria the basic overtime pay is time and a half from the first hour on. The rate is based on collective bargaining agreements, even though the legal minimum is 25%.

#### NEW CAPITAL FOR INVESTMENT BANKS

The Austrian Investment Credit Corporation, which was established about a year ago to pass on foreign credits — especially those from the World Bank — to private Austrian enterprises and supervise their utilization, announced that it will increase its stock capital from 10 to 40 million schillings. (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) The Corporation also expects to be given an ERP (Marshall Plan) credit of 80 million schillings which should further strengthen the bank's operations. As has already been reported, the World Bank will ready a larger dollar loan for investment use by Austrian industries. This loan, too, will be made available through the Investment Credit Corporation. For this purpose, it became necessary for the organization to balance its own means with the capital on deposit.

#### PITTERMANN STRESSES NEED FOR MORE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, MORE EFFICIENT MARKETING

Vice Chancellor Pittermann said during a recent visit to a Vienna appliances plant that Austria was far behind in development research. Calling for a change in the present practice, Pittermann said that only relatively small means would suffice for financial assistance to scientific research.

Technical education in Austria is considered excellent, he said. Austrian technicians and skilled staffs are in great

demand the world over. If Austria wants to stop the flow of expert personnel to foreign countries, they must be afforded similar working conditions at home, Pittermann declared.

Speaking at the Siemens & Halske Works, a large government-owned plant, Pittermann said that the appliances industry probably could not count on tremendous expansion. But, he added, Austria's strength had always been its specialized manufacture of high quality equipment, and in that field Austria still had a great future.

Pittermann also remarked that Austria would not be able to afford for ever the inflated distribution apparatus which now exists. "I am convinced," he said, "that the expansion possibilities of the Austrian market are not yet exhausted; but as long as sales prices are compounded by the additional cost of an obsolete distribution apparatus its volume will not be as large as it well might be."

#### MOTOR VEHICLES NEAR MILLION MARK

Licensed motor vehicles, not including motorized bicycles, amounted to 744,111 at the end of April, 1958; this represents an increase of 8.4% over April 30, 1957. During this period, passenger automobiles on the road increased by 23.1% to a total of 255,213. Other increases were shown in tractors and semi-trailers (16.3%), special vehicles (13.4%), trucks (4%), and buses (1.8%).

A decrease was noted in licensed three-wheel commercial vehicles and motorcycles. The number of motorized bicycles increased by 33.7% to 249,022. If these vehicles are included, the total of licensed motor vehicles of all types amounted to 993,133 on April 30, 1958. Thus, there is one vehicle for every seventh Austrian.

#### MORE AUTOS, MORE TRAFFIC WORRIES

"Generally speaking, only two things remain to remedy the traffic situation," the Austrian Minister of Trade, Fritz Bock, said at a recent press conference; "one is legislation and the other education. It can be shown that 99% of all accidents are due to lack of discipline."

The perils of the road have been greatly increased by the rising number of Austrian motor vehicles, the minister said.

Progress in engine and body design, which has led to ever greater speeds, is another factor. Tests have shown that by and large most motor vehicles in Austria are in excellent condition; and statistics prove the overwhelming number of accidents are not due to poor mechanical condition but to human failure.

During the past year, 61,278 persons were injured in Austria in traffic accidents. If the 1,984 fatalities among them are compared with the population statistics of the rural communities, the fact emerges that in Austria a medium-sized community is wiped out every year.

To meet human failure, some severe measures were taken. In 1956, driving licenses of 4,105 persons were revoked. In 1957, the number increased to 5,620. Last April, the authorities ordered that drivers under the influence of alcohol are to be put before penal courts and that only in

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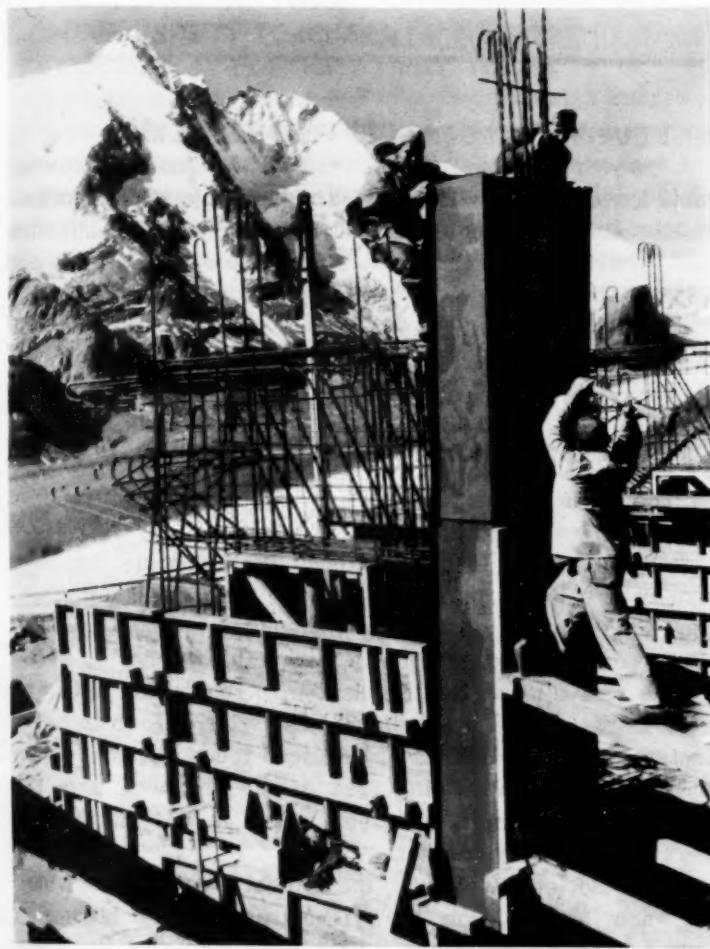
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exceptional cases the penalty should be less than two weeks in jail.

Among other measures designed to bring about observance of traffic rules, the government exhibited posters throughout Vienna and the provinces; the army listened to a special order of the day by the Defense Minister; and the Education Ministry asked teachers to deliver traffic lectures in class rooms.

#### "PARKING TOWER" ON THE GROSSGLOCKNER

A five-story "parking tower" is now under construction on Franz-Josefs-Hohe (7,100 feet) on Glockner Road. (See picture.) The entrance and exit ramps will be spiral-shaped. The new facility will serve about 1,000 cars at a time.



#### CHEMICAL EXPORTS UP 20%

Exports of Austrian chemical products rose from 1.6 billion schillings in 1956 to 1.9 billion in 1957, or by 20.3%. (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) In 1952, chemical exports amounted to only 757 million schillings. This has been tripled since. Increase by volume was even higher with 32% - 530,000 metric tons in 1956 as against 700,000 tons in 1957.

Imports rose by 19.5% in value during the same year. However, with 3.8 billion schillings (1956: 3.2 billion), they were still twice as high as exports. By volume the picture was different: with 781,000 metric tons in 1957 (686,000 in 1956), imports rose by only 13.9%.

Imports accounted last year for approximately 50% of the Austrian production and exports for 25%. The following groups of goods were primarily concerned with import and export: rubber and rubber goods, artificial fibers, asbestos and asbestos goods, oils, fats and waxes, organic and inorganic chemical products, tars and tar products, synthetic materials, paints and lacquers, cosmetic products, soaps, cleansing products, pharmaceutical goods, artificial fabrics, matches, chemical fertilizers and other chemical and chemical-technical products.

#### FERTILIZER PRODUCTION SOARING

The production of nitro-fertilizers, one of the important products of the Austrian Nitrogen Works in Linz, Upper Austria, went up from 39,500 tons in 1946 to 724,800 tons in 1957. This represents an increase of 1,735% in 12 years. Exports rose from a gross value of 28 million schillings in 1947 (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) to 685 million schillings in 1957.

#### STAPLE FIBER EXPORTS GAIN

Exports of Austrian staple fiber during the first five months of 1958 reached 11,246 metric tons as against 8,309 tons during the same period of last year. The staple fiber output of *Zellwolle Lenzing A.G.* reached 18,674 tons during the first five months of 1958, or 116 tons more than during the corresponding period of 1957.

#### AUSTRIAN GRAPHITE MANUFACTURE RISING

Austria's production of normal grain washing mill graphite increased from 87 tons in 1956 to 229 tons last year. During the same period, fine grain graphite production went up from 70 to 178 tons.

#### GLASS PRODUCTION UP

During 1957, Austria's glass industry produced hollow glass worth 290 million schillings (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.), or 40 million schillings more than in 1956. Plate glass production increased in value from 109 to 114 million schillings.

#### EXHIBITION OF ONE-FAMILY HOUSES

The Austrian Building Center opened a special exhibition of models of small and one-family houses this month. Visitors saw designs, models and pictures. In the Building Center's open exhibition grounds, a special showing of "a Weekend in Your Own Garden" was held. It included implements and tools for home gardening. The green area was surrounded by model homes featuring all types of building materials, with heavy emphasis on the requirements of do-it-yourself builders.

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**VIENNA'S AGING POPULATION**

Since 1900, the number of people of 60 and above rose from 9.2% to 14.2% of the total population of Europe.

But the number of young people under age 20 decreased during the same time from 40.4% to 32.6%. In Austria alone, there are 700,000 persons past 60; Vienna has the largest percentage of old people of all the large cities of the world.

**VIENNA A CITY OF 1,642,823**

On June 1, 1958, Vienna's population was 1,642,823, among them 725,822 males and 917,001 females. During May 5,850 persons came to stay in Vienna and 4,239 departed. In the same month, 1,367 persons were born, 1,536 couples were married and 1,853 persons died.

**MORE SODA WATER, LESS BEER FOR WORKERS**

Research into Austrian industries where workers are subjected to high degrees of temperatures have shown that workers who drink beer are much more prone to accidents than those consuming soft drinks. These findings caused the workers representatives of the Boehler Steel Works in Kapfenberg (Styria) to take the situation in hand. (In the Boehler Works, workers consumed 4,000 bottles of beer daily until recently.)

As in other plants more accidents were registered in Kapfenberg on paydays, when more beer is consumed than on any others. The workers' council knew, however, that its campaign against beer would not be successful until a substitute was found.

Thus, a few soda water automats were installed in several parts of the plant on an experimental basis. After a few days, lines formed in front of the automats, and the council decided to install more. It is consumed either as it is or with fruit syrups.

Before the first machines were put up, management feared that the innovation might lead to widespread dissatisfaction. These fears were unfounded: all of the younger workers and the overwhelming majority of those of medium age have now banned beer from their place of work. Only the older workers still prefer beer to soft drinks - mostly because they cannot get rid of the notion that soft drinks are "not for grown-ups."

**GLAZIERS CONTINUE TO RECEDE.**

A report on glazier measurements made by the Austrian Alpine Society shows that glazier recession unfortunately did not stop during the evidence of receding. One, the Ge-patschferner in the Kaunser Valley shrank by 42 meters (1 meter equals 39.37 inches). Only one glazier, the Schau-felferner in the Stubay Alps, gained a few meters.

In the Dachstein area, the Hallstaetter and Great Gosau glaziers receded further while six glaziers in the Silvretta showed only small changes.

In the Pasterzen area (Glockner territory), the glazier edge has been turned back by 30 to 49 meters because of ice breakup near the source of the Moell.

**HEAVIER FINES FOR CRUELTY TO ANIMALS IN VIENNA**

The Vienna City Council has asked police judges to hand out heavier fines in cases of cruelty to animals. The police courts now impose fines between 500 and 1,000 schillings (26 schillings equal \$1. Ed.) and in some cases, the offenders lose their animals. Tougher enforcement of the law for the prevention of cruelty to animals has led to a decline of offenses.

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**MISS EUROPE'S CROWN GETS VIENNESE FLAIR**

19-year old Hanni Ehrenstrasser of Vienna was crowned Miss Europe recently in Istanbul by her predecessor, Corinne Rottschaefer of the Netherlands. Among the 15 candidates for the title, the candidates from Austria, Germany and Finland found most favor with the public.

**AUSTRIAN PAPER DRAWS COMPARISON  
BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET PAVILIONS  
AT BRUSSELS FAIR**

The visitor who enters the Brussels World's Fair inevitably faces the American and Soviet pavilions.

The two pavilions "co-exist," they compete, but they also make believe that the other is not there at all, although, according to where the sun is, one stands in the shadow of the other. The American pavilion is a gigantic cylinder of glass, with a roof thin as breath put atop, a roof which seems to float above it like a cloud. In the interior, thrown in as by accident, the top products of American industry lie around a small pond. A captivating idea of the architect: into the room push a few high, old trees "made in Belgium." They don't distract, they connect.

The Soviet pavilion is the typical "cathedral" which we know already from the Vienna fair - only bigger, of course. The visitor climbs a vast open staircase and finds himself enmeshed in a master piece of geometry. Two allegorical statues of "socialist realism" with gold-engraved mottos and two trashy paintings of colossal size flank the entrance. In the interior, a Lenin statue towers among six tall columns - "Big Brother is looking at you." In front of it models of Sputnik I and II. All around a powerful show of Soviet technical achievement, an arch-conservative exhibit of paintings, sales stands with children's toys, designed to "enlighten" rather than to entertain the coming generation. Samples of Soviet architecture (clay models) show a sameness of design which one associates with barracks. Everything is purposeful, orderly - there is little evidence of imagination.

From a report by Frank Fischer in the Vienna "Arbeiter-Zeitung" (Socialist), June 29, 1958.

## CULTURE AND SCIENCE

### JOBs FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL STUDENTS IN VIENNA

Viennese hospitals will offer 80 jobs to foreign medical students as part of an international exchange program. The action followed participation by Austrian medical students in a new organization, the "International Exchange of Assistant Positions for Medical Students." The organization intends to foster the international exchange of medical students, to give the future physicians the opportunity to observe and assist in hospital work in other countries.

### MORE UNIVERSITY TEACHERS, BIGGER OUTLAY FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

Replying to questions in Parliament, Austrian Education Minister Heinrich Drimmel said recently that during the past few years, teaching positions at Austrian universities had been increased and an improvement in material aid for scientific recruitment had been achieved. The number of assistant professors rose from 592 to 772 in recent years, that of scientific aids (including clinical assistant physicians) from 480 to 783, that of librarians from 17 to 220 and that of scientific workers from 68 to 112.

The Minister said further that assistant professors who had obtained a teaching license as university lecturers now get an additional honorarium for doing independent scientific research.

For such subsidies which go primarily to young scientists, the government had set aside 2,734,000 schillings in 1952 (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) For aiding scientific research and travel, the 1952 budget set aside altogether 400,000 schillings; this year, the government expects to spend 1,350,000 schillings for the same purpose.

### THE NEW RECTOR OF VIENNA UNIVERSITY

For the first time in the history of the University of Vienna, a teacher of protestant theology was elected rector (president) of the University. The new rector for the year 1958-1959 is Dr. Erwin Schneider, professor of systematic theology. He studied Evangelical (Protestant) theology, philosophy and history of art in Vienna and in 1914 obtained a doctor of philosophy degree at the University. For 25 years Dr. Schneider has been in the service of the Evangelical Church in Austria, most recently as a member of the governing church council. In 1948, he became chairman of the University's Evangelical-Theological department; he served several times as dean.

### WALDINGER'S LATEST VERSE PUBLISHED

A new collection of verse by the Austrian poet Ernst Waldinger was recently published in Vienna. The volume is entitled "Zwischen Hudson und Donau" (Between the Hudson and the Danube). Waldinger, who has been living in the U.S. since 1938, is expected to visit Vienna soon. It will be his first trip home after 20 years of exile.

### GUGGENHEIM AWARD TO AUSTRIAN PAINTER

Austrian painter Wolfgang Hollegha was recently awarded the \$1,000 prize of the Guggenheim Foundation's Austrian Section. The Austrian prize jury was composed of Professors Fritz Wotruba, Vinzenz Oberhammer, and Arnulf Neuwirth. Artists who were invited to contribute paintings to a Paris exhibition arranged by the Guggenheim Foundation include: Gottfried Goebel, Wolfgang Hollegha, Fritz Hundertwasser, Josef Mickel and Max Weiler.

### KOKOSCHKA AND MANZÙ TO TEACH AGAIN AT SALZBURG SUMMER ACADEMY

Oskar Kokoschka's "School of Vision" will have its sixth term from July 15 to August 15, 1958. Students from more than 20 countries are expected to attend.

The school forms a part of the International Summer Academy in Salzburg. The class for sculpture will - after one year's interruption - again be conducted by the Italian sculptor Giacomo Manzù. The artist has recently finished his work on the bronze door of Salzburg's cathedral.

### VIENNA FESTIVAL STATISTICS

The facts and figures for Vienna's Festival Weeks have become available just a few days after the event closed. The musical performances, whose climax was the European Choir Festival of the Society of the Friends of Music and in which 15 choirs, 10 orchestras, 25 conductors and 11 instrumental soloists participated, were attended by 58,858 visitors. The Vienna stage offered 353 performances during the festival (from May 31 to June 22). The state theaters offered 107 performances attended by 99,574 visitors, and private stages 246 shows attended by 90,892 persons.

Eighty plays were performed, among them 39 contemporary works. Of the 17 premieres, four were world premieres, nine firsts for Austria and four revivals. Austrian authors were performed 196 times, including 36 performances in the state theaters. During the Festival, 15 special events, attended by 66,165 persons, were held; about 20,000 visited the Kokoschka exhibition. In 17 Vienna museums, art galleries and historical shrines, 49,361 visitors were counted. 326 suburban events attracted 92,182 persons. At the opening of the Festival, about 60,000 people showed up and the closing concert was attended by about 15,000. Altogether 531,032 people participated in the Festival which was covered by 62 reporters from 12 European and 17 overseas countries.

### NEW ZUCKMAYER PLAY FOR BURGTHEATER

Carl Zuckmayer's new play "Der trunksene Herkules" (Drunken Hercules) was acquired by the Burgtheater in Vienna where it will have its world premiere during the next season. Paula Wessely and Attila Hoerburger will head the cast.

### STRAVINSKY TO CONDUCT IN VIENNA

Igor Stravinsky has accepted an invitation to conduct a concert of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra next October 17. The performance will be given in the Vienna Konzerthausa.

**NO SEASONAL BREAK AT THE VIENNA BURGTHEATER**

There is practically no summer recess at the Burgtheater this year. (The house usually closes for the summer late in June.) Grillparzer's "Weh dem, der luegt" (Woe to him who lies) had been such a success with the public that it was continued until July 7. The fall season starts August 22.

**SINGERS' FESTIVAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP**

The Austrian Postal Administration announced that it will issue a special commemorative stamp to honor the Third Austrian Choir Festival. The issue will be a 1.50 schilling five-color stamp with a portrait of Walther von der Vogelweide, Austrian minnesinger (app 1170 - 1230). It is valid as of July 17.

**MUSIL'S "MAN WITHOUT QUALITIES"  
GIVEN PARIS AWARD AS BOOK OF THE YEAR**

A literary jury of prominent French writers recently awarded the prize for the best foreign book of the year to the late Austrian novelist Robert Musil for his unfinished monumental work "Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften." Musil died in 1942 in Geneva.

The first two volumes of the novel have been best sellers in France for many years; recently the third and fourth volumes appeared in a French translation.

**A TYPICAL AUSTRIAN COUPLE  
WANTS TWO CHILDREN**

The average Austrian couple considers two children the ideal family, a recent poll showed. Of those questioned, 47% wanted two children and 25% three. Relatively few couples, 12%, wanted only one child, while 8% wanted four and 2% five children. Three percent expressed the somewhat startling belief that an ideal marriage should remain childless. Among the younger people — between 18 and 29 years — more than one half, or 52%, considered two children best. Among the rural population, 39% were for three children and 20% for four.

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